



Enoch Eldredge Gurr was born at Sussex, Northin, England, November 27, 1813, a son of James and Sarah Eldredge Gurr. He married a young widow, Sarah Higgins, who had a child named Mary. Enoch and Sarah had a girl, Jane, and a son, William. Sarah and the girl died. Later Enoch married Ruth Buchman, a nurse.

Early in the 19th century, Enoch, one of ten children of the humble family of James and Sarah were trying to eke out a living probably as farm tenants and also were a very devout family in their worship.

Enoch grew to be a tall, well built man of six feet with broad shoulders. He had grey blue eyes. He drove the coach with the white horses for Queen Victoria.

At the time of his marriage, there was much excitement over the discovery of gold in Australia. Many young people were saving all they could to raise enough money for transportation to Australia. Enoch became interested along with his friend, John Buchman for both had the spirit of adventure. When they had enough saved they and the

Buchman family, including John and his sister, Ruth, left for Australia. This was in 1838, when Enoch was 25. They looked forward with high spirits to the adventure but with heavy hearts at leaving behind their parents and brothers, sisters and friends, not knowing if they would ever see them again.

Traveling on sailboats took months so every one aboard got acquainted and the Gurr and Buchman families spent many happy hours together and friendships grew closer.

One day the tragic news spread that the dreaded disease, smallpox, had broken out among some passengers. One can imagine the panic that broke out among the passengers. Ruth Buchman, who had studied practical nursing for eight years did all she could to help among those stricken.

Enoch was especially grateful to her for assistance, when his wife and baby daughter were stricken. Everything was done for them that was possible but both died. Also John Buchman's wife died. It was a sad and heartbreaking task for them to see their loved ones lowered over the side of the vessel to be buried at sea.

They finally landed at Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and started life anew. They never found gold but did find a land of opportunities. Enoch married Ruth Buchman about 1839 and they became the parents of James, Susanah, Peter, Sarah, and Ruben Gurr.

When Ruben was born, William, Enoch's oldest boy was 14 years old and was much help to his father on freighting trips.

Enoch was a very devout Christian and raised his family that way. One passage of scripture impressed him very much — "And I saw another Angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." (Rev. 16:6.)

Two LDS missionaries came one day with their message and Enoch and his family were soon converted and were baptized, December 23, 1853, by John Eldredge and confirmed by Elder Graham. They told their good news to their friends, minister and Ruth's brothers. They were disappointed when so many, including their minister, turned against them. Other missionaries who were made welcome at their home were Andrew Jackson Stewart

of Benjamin, Utah, and William Madison Wall of Provo and Elder Fleming.

Because of the news of Johnston's Army coming to Utah and the Indian troubles, Brigham Young called all the Elders home. Brigham made arrangements on an old sailing vessel for the Elders and a group of Saints from all over Australia and surrounding islands to come to America. Enoch's son William and his wife, Sarah E. Barker, converts, came too.

Enoch secured a job as cook on the vessel. When but a few miles out the sea became calm—no wind to stir the sails for six weeks. The Saints on board met and prayed for the calm to cease and for the wind to blow to help them continue their journey. Soon after the wind began to blow and they sailed peacefully for a few days, then a terrible storm overtook them. It was so bad the Captain said he could not save the ship. William Wall, a missionary called the Saints together and prayed for the storm to cease. Their prayers were answered. They sailed on in peace. The captain said the Mormons beat the devil — the ship would have sunk if the Mormons hadn't been there. Food and water were scarce and everyone was put on rations. The main food was coarse sea biscuits, which Enoch could not eat because of stomach trouble. So the kindly ship's captain gave him white bread.

After three long month's on the ocean, they arrived in San Pedro, California. They were there for some time buying supplies and getting ready for the trip to Utah. They came in the Ezra Curtis company and suffered many hardships while crossing the Nevada desert. They arrived at Parowan, Utah where William and his wife decided to stay, while Enoch, Ruth and the other children came on to Provo, arriving there in 1857 in the Ezra Curtis company.

They lived in Provo and Enoch helped to build the road through Provo Canyon. After the road was finished to what was later Charleston he had one of the best farms there. Their youngest child, Ruben, became very ill there so the doctor advised them to go to a lower climate if they wanted him to live. They moved to Benjamin Ward near Payson, and built a log house and were one of the first families to plant trees.

He freighted between the Douglas store in Payson and Salt Lake City. The log house in Benjamin was later replaced with a larger, well constructed adobe house.

Enoch Gurr was one of the first men to perfect adobes.

Enoch's two daughters, Sarah and Susanah, married William Wall and lived in Wallsburg, a little town to the east of the head of Provo Canyon. William Wall died in September 1869, at Provo leaving Susanah with three small children and Sarah with two and expecting another. Susanah had rheumatism so bad she thought a change of climate might help her so in 1870 they moved to their father's home. Enoch was now 59 years and Ruth 60. They were glad to have their daughters come to live with them.

In 1872, Enoch with his son Peter started for Grass Valley intending to raise cattle but at Gunnison heard the Indians were very hostile in Grass Valley so they stayed in Gunnison until the Indian trouble subsided. Then they went to a settlement called Prattville, on the Sevier River where the United Order was being started. They stayed for about a year but left when the Order broke up.

They rented land at Chicken Creek where they farmed two years but finally went back to Benjamin so the children could go to school. After Peter died Enoch could not care for this farm so his son James took them back to a farm at Sigard on the Sevier River. Enoch cleaned out his old salt springs and made salt again to help make a living. Before he passed away his granddaughter Ruth and husband, William Stewart, had them come back to Benjamin to live.

Enoch was called and ordained a High Priest by President John Young, September 3, 1861, and called by President John Murdock of Heber City to preside over the High Priests in Wallsburg, Wasatch County in 1861. He was called by President Fairbanks of Payson, Utah, to join the School of Prophets in 1870 while he lived in Benjamin.

His family all idolized him—he was so kind and he was an extra special tithe payer. He died March 12, 1887.

Children: Ruben, Elgadia Emline Miles, William Ruben, Enoch Elijah, Hannah Elizabeth, John Miles, Lucy Perlina, Sarah Bernetta and Adelbert Gurr.

Enoch Eldredge Gurr

JAMES ENOCH GURR AND MARGARET MARIA DAVIS

James Enoch Gurr was born April 26, 1841, at Sidney, Cumberland County, Australia, a son of Enoch Eldredge Gurr and

Ruth Buckman, where the Queen of England had made Enoch Eldredge supervisor over the gold freighters. On October 26, 1861, he married Margaret Maria Davis in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was the daughter of William Luce Davis and America Jane Overland and was born February 11, 1846, at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. James died November 17, 1901, and Margaret died January 17, 1920. Both are buried at Vernal, Utah.

James was baptized December 23, 1853, by Elder John Eldredge and confirmed by Elder Graham. He came to Utah with his parents in 1857, by crossing the Pacific Ocean in the sailing ship, Lucas, on a 118-day journey, then landing at San Pedro, California. From there they trekked to Ely, Nevada, where they stayed the first winter, then to Parowan, then to Provo where they stayed several years, then to Charleston and from there to what the Indians called Little Warm Valley.

James was one of the first white men to spend the winter in Round Valley, where he was taking care of William Wall's sheep.

After living in Wallsburg for several years, he moved back to Benjamin and from there to Gunnison, then to Parowan, and then to Salina. After living in these towns awhile, he moved back to Richfield where he bought a farm and located. He lived here farming and freighting until the Indians became so mean, the white settlers were advised to move. He then moved back up Provo Canyon to Midway living in the Fort there. When peace was restored with the Indians he moved back to Richfield.

James and his family lived in the United Order until it was discontinued. When the Order was broken up they gave him a white cow, which he turned back to the Church for tithing. After the discontinuation of the Order, he again moved back to Wallsburg where he ran a farm for Daniel Bigelow for several years. Then he moved to Vernal and bought a home and farm.

James was a farmer and stockman. He was active in the Church and all the civic and social organizations of the day. He spent most of his life pioneering and colonizing Southern Utah.

Margaret came across the plains with her family as a small child. At the Platte River, her father William Luce Davis died of cholera, July 5, 1852, leaving her mother with five small children.

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